

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Kevin Kerstein
Publicity Manager
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(610) 420-6971 (mobile)
(502) 635-4712 (office)
Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com

GRADE I WINNER ARKLOW TOPS SATURDAY'S 84TH RUNNING OF THE GRADE III, \$150,000 LOUISVILLE STAKES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, May 12, 2021) – Donegal Racing, Joseph Bulger and the Estate of Peter Conway's Grade I-winning turf specialist **Arklow** is set to return from a nearly six-month break in Saturday's 84th running of the \$150,000 Louisville Stakes (Grade III) at Churchill Downs.

Saturday's Louisville Stakes, run at 1 ½ miles on the Matt Winn Turf Course, is the featured event on the 11-race program. First post is 12:45 p.m. (all times Eastern) and the Louisville will go as the finale at 5:58 p.m. A simulcast of the \$1 million Preakness Stakes (GI) – the second leg of horse racing's Triple Crown – follows at 6:47 p.m.

Trained by 2020 Eclipse Award-winning conditioner **Brad Cox**, Arklow has been off since winning November's \$200,000 Hollywood Turf Cup (GII) at Del Mar. The now 7-year-old son of **Arch** has recorded eight lifetime victories through 31 starts with earnings topping a stout \$2.66 million. Arklow has one victory over the Matt Winn Turf Course four years ago in the American Turf (GII).

Jockey **Florent Geroux**, who has been aboard Arklow for 16 previous starts, has the call from post No. 10.

With a victory Saturday, trainer **Kenny McPeek** would tie **Bill Mott** for the most victories in the Louisville Stakes with six. McPeek entered **Lucky Seven Stable**'s stakes winner **Crafty Daddy** along with **Walking L Thoroughbreds**' three-time winner **Fighting Seabee**.

Mott hopes to extend his lead with **Trinity Farm**'s \$150,000 Elkhorn (GIII) winner **Red Knight**. The 7-year-old gelded son of **Pure Prize** finished second to Arklow in last year's \$1 million Kentucky Turf Cup (GIII) at Kentucky Downs.

The complete field for the Louisville from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **Artemus Eagle** (Gabriel Saez, Waylon Cundiff); **Imperador (ARG)** (Joe Talamo, Paolo Lobo); **Spooky Channel** (Francisco Arrieta, Jason Barkley); **Strong Tide** (Marcelino Pedroza, Mike Lauer); **Fantasioso (ARG)** (Julien Leparoux, Ignacio Correas IV); **Jais's Solitude** (Declan Cannon, Eddie Kenneally); **Red Knight** (James Graham, Mott); **Fighting Seabee** (Chris Landeros, McPeek); **Monarchs Glen (GB)** (Adam Beschizza, Mike Maker); **Arklow** (Geroux, Cox); **Ajourneytofreedom** (Tyler Gaffalione, Maker); **Bakers Bay** (Corey Lanerie, Shug McGaughey); **Crafty Daddy** (Brian Hernandez, McPeek); and **Admiralty Pier** (Drayden Van Dyke, Barbara Minshall).

Wagering is available online at www.TwinSpires.com, the official ADW of Churchill Downs Incorporated.

Racing beneath the Twin Spires returns Thursday with a special late post of 5 p.m. for Twilight Thursday presented by Blue Moon. Fans can enjoy the eight-race card while sipping on \$1 select domestic beer and \$1 Blue Moon draft. The evening also features live music, food trucks and more. General admission, which includes a program, is \$5 and can be purchased online at www.churchilldowns.com/tickets. Live racing will continue Friday-Sunday with first posts of 12:45 p.m. For more information about the Spring Meet, visit <https://www.churchilldowns.com/calendar/featured-events/>.

ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK

Churchill Downs Racetrack ("CDRT"), the world's most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The saddling paddock and the stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility. www.ChurchillDowns.com.

-END-